

## ATROCITIES BY HUNS PROVED BY WHITLOCK

American Minister Furnishes Proof of Barbarities Inflicted by Huns on Civilians—Tells of Many Carried Into Slavery.

By Milton Bronner.

Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium, is on official record charging the Germans with the crimes of massacring civilians, using noncombatant natives as shields for their advancing troops, and deporting thousands upon thousands of Belgians into virtual slavery in Germany.

His reports to that effect, made while he was still at Brussels, are on file in the archives of the State Department. They add the last testimony—if proof were needed—that all of the atrocities charged up to the Germans are based upon hideous facts and not merely upon the inflamed imagination of hostile populations.

Whitlock, in his capacity as a diplomat of a power still at peace with Germany, reported facts to his superior officers. They did not want propaganda stories either for or against anyone. Washington wanted to know what was going on in Belgium.

Whitlock reported the news with as much accuracy as it was possible for him to get it. And he got it first-hand because the American legation was the clearing house through which the victims of the Huns passed.

**Whitlock's Reports, Locked Up for Long Time, Now Issued by Public Information Committee.**

For a long time Whitlock's reports have been locked up. Now they are released, forming part of a 94-page book on "German War Practices," issued by George Creel's Committee on Public Information, and edited by Prof. D. C. Munro of Princeton University.

Whitlock's first dispatches regarding the cruelties of the Germans were sent in 1914 when the kaiser's legions were spreading death and terror before them.

"Summary executions took place at Dinant," he wrote, "without the least semblance of judgment. The names and number of the victims are not known, but they must be numerous. Among the persons who were shot are: M. Defoin, mayor of Dinant; Sassacath, first alderman; Nimmer, aged 70; consul for the Argentine Republic; Victor Poncelet, who was executed in the presence of his wife and seven children; Gustave and Leon Nicaise, two very old men.

"Jules Monin and others were shot in the cellar of their brewery, Camille Pistte and his son, aged 17; Phillipart Piedfort, his wife and daughter; Miss Marsigny.

**Wives and Children Placed by Germans Before Men They Condemned to Death**

"During the execution of about 40 inhabitants of Dinant, the Germans placed before the condemned their wives and children. It is thus that Madame Alin, who had just given birth to a child three days previously, was brought on a mattress by German soldiers to witness the execution of her husband; her cries and supplications were so pressing that her husband's life was spared.

"On the 26th day of August German soldiers entered various streets of Louvain and ordered the inhabitants of the houses to proceed to the Place de la Station, where the bodies of nearly a dozen assassinated persons were lying.

"Women and children had to witness the execution of many of their fellow citizens who were for the most part shot at the side of the square. The women and children, after having remained on the square for more than 15 hours, were allowed to depart.

"The civil guards of Louvain were taken prisoners and sent to Germany to the camp of Muenster, where they were held for several weeks.

**Hundreds of Graves, All Bearing Same Date, Tell of German Frightfulness in Village**

"One of the most sorely tried communities was that of the little village of Taminis down in what is known as the Borinage, the coal fields of Charleroi.

"Taminis is a mining village, a collection of small cottages sheltering about 5000 inhabitants, mostly all poor laborers. The little graveyard, in which the church stands, bears its mute testimony to the horror of the event. There are hundreds of new-made graves, each with its small wooden cross and its bit of flowers; the crosses are so closely huddled that there is scarcely room to walk between them. They are alike and all bear the same date, the sinister date of Aug. 22, 1914.

"Whether their hands were cut off or not, whether they were impaled on bayonets or not, children were shot down by military order in cold blood. In the awful crime of the Rock of Bayard, there overlooking the Meuse below Dinant, infants in their mother's arms were shot down without mercy.

"The deed, never surpassed in cruelty by any hand of savages, is thus described by the bishop of Namur himself: "One scene surpasses in horror all others; it is the fusillade of the Rock of Bayard. It appears to have been ordered by Colonel Meister. This fusillade caused the death of nearly 90 persons without distinction of age or sex. Among the victims were babies in arms, boys and girls, fathers and mothers of families, even old men.

"It was there that 12 children under the age of six perished from the fire of the executioners, six of them as they lay in their mother's arms:

- "The child Fievet, 3 weeks old.
- "Maurice Betempts, 11 months old.
- "Nelly Pollet, 11 months old.
- "Nelly Pollet, 11 months old.
- "Gilda Jenon, 18 months old.
- "Gilda Marchot, 2 years old.
- "Clara Struvay, 2 years and 6 months.

**Eight Large Families Entirely Wiped Out**

"The pile of bodies comprised also many children from 6 to 14 years. Eight large families have entirely disappeared. Four have but one survivor. Those men that escaped death—and many of whom were riddled with bullets—were obliged to bury in a summary and hasty fashion their fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters; then after having been relieved of their money and being placed in chains, they were sent to Cassel, Prussia."

Whitlock also touches upon the horrors at Louvain, saying:

"On Thursday, Aug. 27, order was given to the inhabitants to leave Louvain because the city was to be bombed. Old men, women, children, the sick, priests, nuns were driven on the roads like cattle. More than 10,000 were driven as far as Tirlemont, 18 kilometers from Bouvain."

**Germans Force Priest to Serve as Shield**

Whitlock confirms the charge that the Germans shielded themselves behind the bodies of the Belgians:

"The Germans attacked Hougaerd on Aug. 18; the Belgian troops were holding the Gatte bridge in the village.

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The Germans forced the parish priest of Autgaerden to walk in front of them as a shield. As they neared the barricade the Belgian soldiers fired and the priest was killed."

For a time the protests of neutral nations and the outcries of a shocked world seemed to cow the Germans. The wholesale massacres, lootings and burnings ceased. But in the winter of 1916 they perfected a new form of devilry. Their own supply of labor depleted, the Huns conceived the idea of deporting Belgians and Frenchmen to Germany to make them work for the kaiser, in many instances actually compelling them to labor in munition factories.

#### Whitlock Report Tells of Belgian Deportations

On Jan. 16, 1917, while still in Brussels—even tho it was occupied by the Germans—Whitlock made a report on this to the State Department.

The report tells of the decision of the Comité National (Belgian relief organization) in the autumn of 1914, to continue payment of wages to unemployed Belgians as a humanitarian and patriotic measure; to enable the Belgians to live and to prevent them working for the Germans.

Whitlock pointed out the danger in this policy, saying it would put a premium on idleness and exasperate the Germans. But it was adopted and the relief wages were paid to some 700,000 men.

#### Presence of Unemployed Tempts German Cupidity.

"The presence of these unemployed was a constant temptation to German cupidity," the report continues.

"Finally the military party always brutal, and with an astounding ignorance of public opinion and of moral sentiment, determined to put these idle men to work.

"General Von Bissing and the civil portion of his entourage had always been and even now are opposed to this policy and I think have sincerely done what they could, first, to prevent its adoption and, secondly, to lighten the rigors of its application.

"Then in August Hindenberg was appointed to the supreme command. He is said to have criticized von Bissing's policy as too mild; there was a quarrel; von Bissing went to Berlin to protest, threatened to resign, but did not.

#### "More Terrible War" Threat Carried Out

"He returned and a German official here said that Belgium would now be subjected to a more terrible regime—would learn what war was. The prophecy has been vindicated. Recently I was told that the drastic measures are really of Ludendorff's inspiration; I do not know. Many German officers say so."

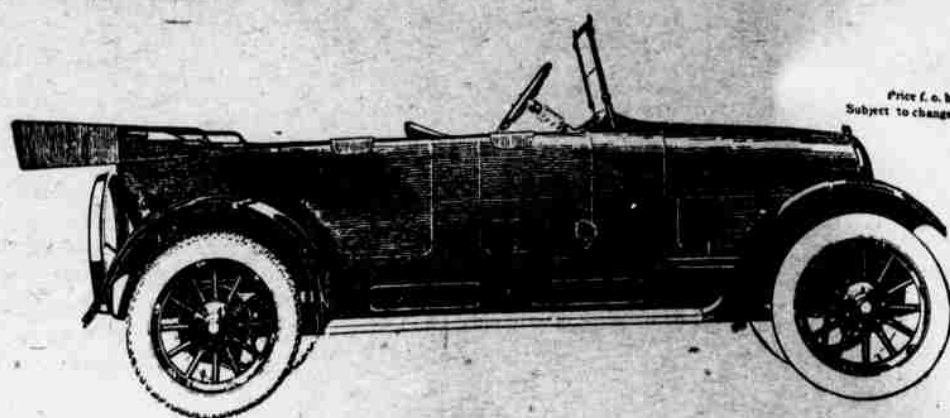
Whitlock gives this picture of the actual deportations: "They began in October at Ghent and at Bruges, as my brief telegrams indicated. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainaut, the mines and steel work about Charleroi were next attacked; now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indications and even predictions of the civil authorities that the policy was about to be abandoned.

#### Many Deported Men Suffer From Cold

"As by one of the ironies of life, the winter has been more excessively cold than Belgium has ever known it, and while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many of them were without overcoats. The men shivering from cold and fear, the parting from weeping wives and children, the barriers of brutal Uhlans, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

"The rage, the terror, the despair excited by this measure all over Belgium were beyond anything we had witnessed since the day the Germans poured into Brussels.

"Transportation everywhere in Belgium is difficult, the vicinal railways scarcely operating any more because of the lack of oil, while all the horses have been taken. The people who are forced to go from one village to another must do so on foot or in vans drawn by the few miserable horses that are left. The wagons of the breweries, the one institution that the Germans have scrupulously respected, are hauled



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#### Men Are Sent Back In Dying Condition

"I am constantly in receipt of reports from all over Belgium that tend to bear out the stories one constantly hears of brutality and cruelty.

"A number of men sent back to Mons are said to be in a dying condition, many of them tubercular. At Maline and Antwerp returned men have died, their friends asserting that they have been victims of neglect and cruelty, of cold exposure, of hunger."

Whitlock, at that time estimated that 100,000 persons had been deported, of whom only 2000 were returned.

Whitlock concludes his report as follows: "One interesting result of the deportations remains to be noted, a result that once more places in relief the German capacity for blundering, almost as great as the German capacity for cruelty.

#### Deportations Are At Root of Hatred

"Until the deportations were begun there was no intense hatred on the part of the workingmen and the peasants.

"It is conceivable that the Flemish population might have existed under German rule; it was Teutonic in its origin and anti-French always.

"But now the Germans have changed all that. They have dealt a mortal blow to any prospect they may ever have had of being tolerated by the population of Flanders.

"In tearing away from nearly every humble home in the land a husband and a father or a son and brother they have lighted a fire of hatred that will never go out.

"They have brought home to every heart in the land a way that will impress its horror on the memory of three generations, a realization of what German methods mean, not, as with the early atrocities, in the heat of passion in the first lust of war but by one of those deeds that make of despair of the future of the human race, a deed coldly planned, executed, a deed so cruel that German soldiers are said to have wept in its execution and so monstrous that even German officers are now said to be ashamed."

#### KEEP UP THE RED CROSS.



Dr. Henry Van Dyke, of Princeton, formerly minister to The Netherlands, makes this appeal under the caption "A Red Cross Christmas to Those Who Feel Poor."

"I write as a brother.

"We are a large family.

"This world war made in Germany against which we are fighting has sent our incomes down and our expenses up.

"The pinch hurts, but it is not going to kill us.

"We still have enough and something to spare.

"Though we feel poor don't let us feel impoverished by selfish fear.

"Let us save in food, in service, in clothes, in luxuries, but not in money.

"Let us use that by giving it to save the wounded, the suffering, our

friends, our country. "Let us keep Christmas this by keeping up the Red Cross. "Then it will not be a poor Christmas, but a rich Christmas to hearts."

**Largest Catch of Salmon.** New fish are introduced every year and new fishing grounds discovered and surveyed for the benefit of the men. Rescue work among the fish is also undertaken and last year more than 8,000,000 fish, left stranded evaporating pools, were saved to up to a life of usefulness—that is enough to be fit for the table.

A skilled investigator has been studying frog culture, and the Alaska salmon fisheries have been so studied and protected in accordance with federal laws that this season's has been enormous, the largest made.

The Alaska seals constitute the valuable herd of wild animals owned by any government, and the bureau of fisheries is their custodian.

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